

May 21, 2010

By Jake Wagman, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

U.S. Rep. Russ Carnahan's push to preserve global habitats has caught the attention of Hollywood.

The St. Louis Democrat met this week with actor Don Cheadle, who is supporting a Carnahan bill aimed at preserving natural resources and protecting wildlife around the world.

Cheadle has grown as a global activist since appearing in "Hotel Rwanda," the 2004 film set against the backdrop of genocide in Africa.

On Thursday, Cheadle took part in a Capitol Hill briefing for Carnahan's Global Conservation Act, which would, among other sustainability efforts, seek to crack down on unlawful wildlife trafficking and unregulated fishing.

If approved, Carnahan's bill would create a new position, Coordinator for Global Conservation, in the White House. The legislation has been sent to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where Carnahan recently took the helm of a subcommittee.

Thursday's briefing was coordinated by the Alliance for Global Conservation and also featured anthropologist Jane Goodall.

Organizers seemed to realize that Cheadle, who plays Tony Stark's sidekick in the new Iron Man 2, could have potentially attracted more star gazers than conservationists. To prevent that, the invitation offered lunch on a first come, first serve basis, but urged "No interns, please."

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